

What is claimed is:

5 1. A seat assembly for use in an automotive vehicle comprising:
 a seat cushion for supporting a seat occupant on said seat assembly;
 a seat back operatively coupled to said seat cushion for pivotal movement between a generally upright seating position and a forwardly folded position pivoted against said seat cushion;
 a seat back pivot mechanism coupled to said seat back and operable between a locked position locking said seat back in said upright seating position and an unlocked position for providing pivotal movement of said seat back between said upright seating position and said folded position;

10 2. A front seat riser adapted to secure said seat assembly to the vehicle, said front seat riser pivotally coupled to said seat cushion for pivoting said seat cushion between a generally horizontal seating position and a generally upright tumbled position;

15 3. A rear seat riser adapted to releasably secure said seat assembly to the vehicle, said rear seat riser including a locking latch operable between a latched position for releasably latching said rear seat riser to the vehicle with said seat cushion in said seating position and an unlatched position for releasing said rear seat riser from the vehicle to allow said seat cushion to pivot from said seating position to said tumble position; and

20 4. A blocking member directly coupled between said seat back and said locking latch and operable in a first blocking position for engaging said seat back in said upright seating position and preventing said locking latch from releasing from said latched position to said unlatched position when said seat back is locked by said seat back pivot mechanism in said upright seating position.

25 2. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said blocking member is operable in a second blocking position for engaging said seat back in said folded position when said locking latch is in said unlatched position and preventing pivotal movement of said seat back from said folded position to said seating position until said locking latch is returned to said latched position latching said rear seat riser to the vehicle with said seat cushion in said seating position.

30 3. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said locking latch includes a latch gate pivotally connected to said rear seat riser for pivotal movement between 1) an open position

engaging and retaining said locking latch in said unlatched position when said seat cushion is released and pivotal between said seating position and said tumble position and for retaining said blocking member in said second blocking position until said locking latch is returned to said latched position and 2) a closed position disengaged from said locking latch when said locking latch is in said locked position.

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4. A seat assembly as set forth in claim 2 further including a support bracket secured to said rear seat riser for supporting said seat back pivot mechanism between said seat back and said seat cushion and for supporting said blocking member between said locking latch and said seat back.

3. A seat assembly as set forth in claim *3* wherein said blocking member includes a blocking arm pivotally connected to said support plate for pivotal movement between said first blocking position and said second blocking position in response to said locking latch 15 operating between said latched position and said unlatched position.

6. A seat assembly as set forth in claim *4* wherein said blocking member includes a spring bias member connected between said support bracket and said blocking arm for automatically returning said blocking arm to said first blocking position when said locking 20 latch returns from said unlatched position to said latched position.

7. A seat assembly as set forth in claim *5* wherein said locking latch includes a latch plate pivotally coupled to said rear seat riser for pivotal movement between said latched position and said unlatched position.

25 *8.* A seat assembly as set forth in claim *6* further including a link interconnected between said latch plate and said blocking arm for pivoting said blocking arm from said first blocking position to said second blocking position in response to said latch plate pivoting from said latched position to said unlatched position.

30 *9.* A seat assembly as set forth in claim *7* wherein said locking latch includes a latch spring connected between said latch plate and said rear seat riser for biasing said latch plate from said unlatched position to said latched position.

10. A seat assembly as set forth in claim ¹⁰ ₈ wherein said locking latch includes a gate spring connected between said latch gate and said latch plate for biasing said latch gate to said open position.

5 ¹⁶ ₁₄ A seat assembly as set forth in claim ⁵ ₉ further including a release handle pivotally secured to said rear seat riser and engagable with said locking latch for pivoting said latch plate from said latched position to said unlatched position.

10 ¹¹ ₁₂ A seat assembly as set forth in claim ¹¹ ₁₀ wherein said blocking arm includes a lower leg pivotally connected to said support bracket for engaging said seat back in said first blocking position and an upper arm for engaging said seat back in said second blocking position.

15 ¹⁷ ₁₃ A seat assembly as set forth in claim ¹⁷ ₁₄ further including a seat cushion spring bias member interconnected between said seat cushion and said front seat riser for biasing said seat cushion from said seating position to said tumbled position.

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